



Crime Watch News

Long Beach Police Department . Crime Prevention Unit . 100 Long Beach Blvd . Long Beach, CA 90802

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Sergeant
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PSA/Coordinator
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Community Relations Division

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION

Wednesday
September 15, 2004
7:00 p.m.

Long Beach Water Department Headquarters
1800 East Wardlow Road (West of Cherry Avenue)

Join us for an evening with our Narcotics Detectives and learn what they have been doing! It should prove to be a highly educational presentation with information provided on drug investigations.

Please bring your friends and neighbors!

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UPCOMING EVENTS/ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Friday, September 3, 2004, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Harvest Festival: National Child Safety Education
FREE videotape and fingerprinting of your children for safe keeping
KinderVision - Long Beach Convention Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.
For further information, contact Cory Asrilant: 1-800-774-4180
- Saturday, September 11, 2004, 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
For the Love of Children 3: A Tribute to Heroes
Athletes & Entertainers For Kids ("AEFK"), Queen Mary - Long Beach.
For further information, contact Tim Brown: (562) 438-5905
- Saturday, September 18, 2004, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Fiesta Patrias "Viva Los Ninos": Community Health & Safety Fair
Long Beach Hispanic Association - MacArthur Park, 1321 E. Anaheim St.
For further information, contact Lupe Velasco: (562) 570-4722

CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL SOON MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE CAREFULLY

The Long Beach Police Department would like to remind everyone that school begins Wednesday, September 8, 2004, and the volume of pedestrian traffic around schools increases dramatically. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children from 2 to 14 years of age. The risk for this group is further increased at the beginning of the school year. In an effort to prevent avoidable accidents, the following traffic safety information is being provided:



Drivers are reminded to:

- Yield the right of way to pedestrians in marked or unmarked crosswalks
- Not overtake and pass a vehicle stopped ahead of you when it has stopped for a pedestrian
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians on sidewalks
- Obey the posted speed limits
- Not drive while distracted - examples include using a cell phone, reading, eating, drinking or putting on make-up
- Stop and remain stopped for school buses with "flashing red lights." Opposing traffic must also stop unless a painted or raised divider separates the roadway.
- **Watch and obey crossing guards ... they are there to protect our children!**

Pedestrians are reminded to:

- Yield to vehicles on the roadway if you are outside a crosswalk
- Not cross between intersections controlled by traffic signals outside the crosswalk (to do so would constitute jaywalking).

Parents are reminded to:

- Obey all parking signs and curb markings - they are designed to protect our children and provide optimum traffic flow
- Follow school drop off procedures and always drop your child off on the curbside of the school
- Teach your child to always cross the street at a crosswalk

The Long Beach Police Department's Traffic Section is committed to motorist and pedestrian safety and **traffic laws will be strictly enforced at and around our schools!** For further information, please contact Sergeant Michael Lewis at (562) 570-7209.

Nancy Pratt
Press Information Officer

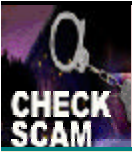


e-NOTIFY IS UP AND RUNNING



We have created an email notification service allowing you to be notified of police events and other news occurring within our City. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join, allowing the Police Department to communicate important information to you and other the concerned citizens of Long Beach. Follow the four easy steps below to subscribe to this free service:

1. Access the Long Beach Police Department's website at:
www.longbeachpd.gov/enotify/default.asp
2. Locate the column of site topics on the left side of the page, and click on "Join Our e-Notify."
3. Click on "Join Here," at the message titled, "We Need to Contact You."
4. A form titled, "Help Us Communicate With You" will appear. Complete the information requested. Click on "Submit," and we will regularly send you information!



RED ALERT!

Counterfeit Cashier's Check

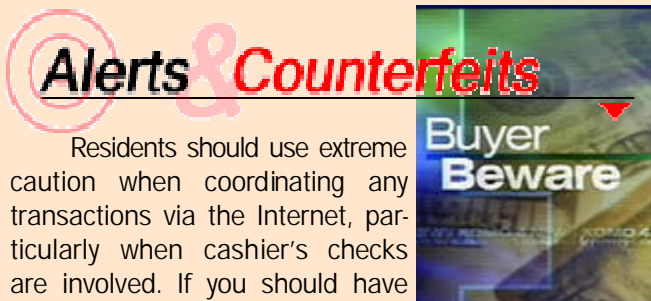
In recent weeks, The Long Beach Police Department's Forgery/Fraud Detail has been flooded with calls from residents concerned about a scam involving the Internet and counterfeit cashier's checks.

With every inquiry, the victim had placed an advertisement on an on-line Internet website, typically a site to sell a particular item, usually a vehicle. The prospective buyer, purportedly located in West Africa, informs the seller of their intent to purchase the item.

Ultimately, the seller agrees to the buyer's offer and the buyer informs the seller that shipping costs will be included in the overall price of the item. For example, if the seller's asking price for a vehicle is \$4,000, the buyer will add \$3,000 for shipping fees to the overall total of a cashier's check. In this example, the cashier's check, totaling \$7,000, is sent via overnight express to the seller's address. The buyer, during email communication, instructs the seller to deposit the cashier's check, withdrawal the amount earmarked for shipping fees, and wire that amount (\$3,000) to a third party "shipping agent." The "shipping agent" is usually someone located in the States of Texas, Florida or New York.

Subsequently, seven to ten days after the seller makes the deposit, the depositing bank notifies the accountholder that the cashier's check deposited was counterfeit. The financial institution, in most cases, will require the accountholder to reimburse the bank for the amount withdrawn at the time of transaction (\$3,000).

In one other reported case, a victim placed a rental property on an Internet property rental site. The prospective renter then forwarded a counterfeit cashier's check to serve as payment.



Residents should use extreme caution when coordinating any transactions via the Internet, particularly when cashier's checks are involved. If you should have any questions or suspect a cashier's check may be counterfeit, please contact the Forgery/Fraud Detail at (562) 570-7330.



BEWARE of Home Improvement Offers

From the Neighborhood Resource Center

A homeowner recently called the Neighborhood Resource Center with concerns that we thought you should know about. The homeowner received a series of strange calls from a company claiming to be using a government program to fix seniors' homes. The caller claimed to be from the City of Long Beach in a satellite office in Lakewood. The caller tried to get the homeowner to do some construction on the homeowner's residence and stated that the City has a program that will pay for 40% of the improvements, is for seniors only and is not based on the homeowner's income level. A contactor then contacted the homeowner and said that their company was not a City agency but is helping to publicize a City program. The homeowner figured out pretty fast that there is something fishy going on and wanted to report this to the City before someone else gets mixed up in this or gets taken advantage of.

I checked around with City offices to see if this is part of an actual City of Long Beach program, and it is not. The Long Beach Police Department has been informed of the details in this incident, but have not received any other calls from other Long Beach property owners about the companies involved in this specific scheme.

Please be cautious about any work you have done on your home. The City of Long Beach does not endorse any contractors. If you are working with a City of Long Beach office to do home improvement activities, they all use (562) 570- telephone prefixes, have written guidelines require that you submit written applications to those City offices and receive approvals prior to beginning any work.

To check to see if a business is legitimately incorporated to conduct business in California, contact the State of California's Secretary of State at www.ss.ca.gov. A FREE guide book published by the State of California on how to hire contractors is available at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach.

To see if a contractor is licensed, please check with State of California, Department of Consumer Affairs' Contractors State License Board. You may check on-line for the contractor's license for all building trades under the construction category at www.dca.ca.gov or call (800) 321-2752. You can search by the contractor's name, or the individual business owner's name and can file a complaint if necessary.

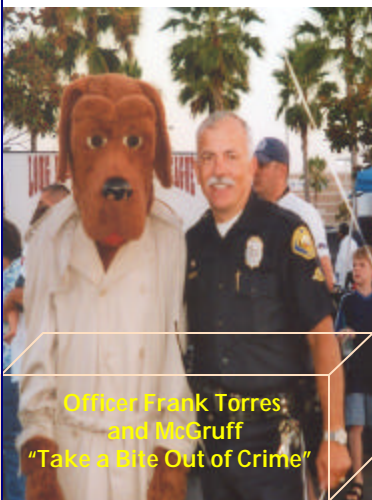
For more information about the City of Long Beach's Housing Services Bureau programs, please call Susie Paternoster at (562) 570-6808. For more information about City of Long Beach's Neighborhood Improvement programs, please call Martha Villacres at (562) 570-6866. For more information about City of Long Beach's Neighborhood Enhancement Area programs, please call Kathleen McCleary at (562) 570-1010.

If you suspect persons are attempting to offer suspicious programs or services claiming they are City of Long Beach sanctioned, please contact the LBPd Forgery/Fraud Detail at (562) 570-7330.

2004 National Night Out

Tuesday, August 3, 2004, at Lowe's Home Improvement Parking Lot, 2840 Bellflower Boulevard
"Thank you for your participation and support of the Long Beach Police Department"

The Long Beach Police Department
"BLUE STEEL BAND"



Officer Frank Torres
and McGruff
"Take a Bite Out of Crime"



DUNK-A-COP
Sergeant Hans Konhlein



The Long Beach Police
Department is accepting
applications for Police Recruits
until October 22, 2004.
For further information,
call (562) 570-6202.

Please share your own Neighborhood Watch Success Story by sending an article to the Community Relations Division, or e-mail it to Lisa_Massacani@longbeach.gov.



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Long Beach
Police Department



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